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12 December 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the DCI for Compartmentation  
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: APEX

1. I have your memorandum on the Komer compromise. It persuades me there probably is no room for compromise here. As hard as Bob Komer is trying at this point, I don't think what he has proposed is within the limits of what I told him I could accept. I do not intend to make a blanket exception to defend some promise that I will never apply billet ceilings or quotas to them. What I promised, I thought, was to leave the issue of whether I could apply such billet ceilings or quotas ambiguous. If the issue never arose because they handled their ceilings judiciously, we would have avoided a problem. If instead they have to be curtailed, we would have a shoot-out at the OK Corral to decide whether I, in fact, could exercise that authority. ☐

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2. I would like to push the paperwork forward right now on the assumption that we cannot agree. If, as it goes through the process, they want to make some compromise in Defense we will look at it, but I think we have waited about as long as we can. ☐

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☐ for  
STANSFIELD TURNER

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